



St. Paul United Methodist Church

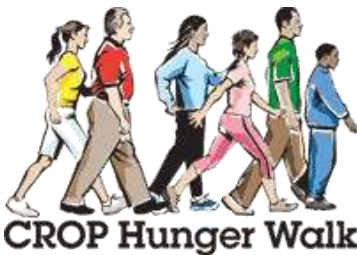
*"An intentionally diverse faith community
Committed to the way of Jesus Christ"*

Saint Paul United Methodist Church strives to continue to be a caring and diverse community of believers who celebrate and proclaim the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ through Worship, Christian Education, Fellowship and Service.

May - June 2018

Crop Hunger Walk 2018

Saturday, June 2 10:30 am Millcreek Park, Area C



Planning for the Willingboro Crop Hunger Walk is underway! Landon Hill and Evelyn Carson are co-chairing; they will answer any questions you may have. This is a fun way to raise money for hunger. A picnic will follow the walk. Other area churches will also participate.

Will you participate by walking or donating? The walk in Millcreek Park is about 4 miles. If you would like to walk, please contact Norma Bowers (609-871-1285) to sign up. Walkers will be seeking donors for pledges. There's no specified amount; give what you can!

The donations will be shared with 25% returned to the area churches to support food pantries and community meals (such as Meals of Love) and 75% going to Church World Service Organization, which works for one goal: building a world where there is enough for all.

Saturday, June 9 at 9 am

Attention All Church Council members and Committee Chairs!

Mark your calendar and come to the planning meeting. A draft of the 2018-2019 calendar will be distributed to all committee chairs. As chair, it is *your* responsibility to review it, make any changes to your committee's schedule and give them to the church secretary by June 1. Your cooperation is appreciated!



Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, June 10 after worship service

Come enjoy good food and great fellowship! Hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, beverages and paper goods will be supplied. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Call the church office (609-877-7034) or sign the attendance pad if you plan to attend.

I would imagine that the story of Pentecost was one of the most exciting biblical stories post resurrection.

It involves a manifestation of the promise made

by the prophet Joel in Joel 2:28 and by Jesus in John 14:26. God's word is true and as declared we find in Acts 2, "God's Spirit descended upon them when a sound of wind came from heaven, tongues of fire rested on everyone and they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance."

It always amazed me that in the beginning of that passage in Acts 2:1, there is reference to the disciples being in one place and on one accord. I strongly believe that prerequisite was vital to ensure the manifestation of the Spirit to come. In the crowd, there were native people from all over the Middle East, and when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in the upper room, they each heard their own individual language. The disciples began speaking those other languages but still were all still on one accord.

It challenges me to think about the life of the believers here at St. Paul. We have representation from a variety of European, African, and West Indian countries among many others. Can you imagine what it would be like if we all made a concerted effort to be on one accord? Interestingly the unification allowed for the expression of separate native identities. In other words, the Spirit allowed for the expression of each country to be heard, individually, but in unity--each individual language,



The Holy Spirit Descends on Pentecost

dialect and inference to be heard and celebrated. I can only imagine that was a wonderful blend that must have been.

As anticipated, not everyone in the crowd was pleased. In verse 13, there were some who made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine". Peter took the time to educate the naysayers on the prophecies written in the Old and New Testaments and ultimately encouraged them to repent, be baptized and also filled with the Holy Ghost. In verse 41, it says "Those who accepted his message were baptized and about 3,000 were added to the church that day!"

What about us? Are we willing to commit to being on one accord within the life of our beloved St. Paul? The commitment noted that being on one accord didn't mean assimilating to only one style or preference of worship, but rather coming together and making a conscious commitment to pray and seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us all. God's outpouring allows for our individual expressions with a united and authentic love. That type of prayer is a guaranteed formula for our church to grow and flourish in times like these.

Pastor G

CHURCH
Anniversary
PREPARATIONS

The 60th Anniversary Committee will meet on Saturday, June 30 to work on plans for a year-long celebration. Jennifer Irizarry is heading up the committee. Watch for details as they unfold!



United Methodist Women

Many thanks for your generosity (\$1,061!!) toward the funeral fund offering in April! This will enable the UMW to continue to provide repasts.

Kathy Kovach and Evelyn Carson will be attending the United Methodist Women's Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20. The theme is "The Power of Bold."

The PM Circle will go to the Masonic Home on May 24 to worship with the residents. Littlest Angels are singing. All women are invited to participate.

PM Circle – May 14 at 7 pm and June 8 at 6 pm

JOY Circle – May 22 at 11:30 am (note date change) and June 19 – Trip to Peddler's Village with lunch at Cock & Bull.

HOPE Circle – May 21 at 12:30 pm; June-TBA

GIGS Circle will not meet until September.



Growing Gracefully
Monday, June 4,
2018 - 10 am
What is a
Myocardial Infarction?

Learn more about the causes, signs& symptoms, treatment options and complications of a heart attack. The presenter is Gwen Hughes, Transition Care Coordinator at Lourdes Medical Center. Blood pressure and blood glucose screenings will also be available. Call the church office to register.



United Methodist Men
BREAKFAST

Sundays: May 27
and June 24

7:30 am

ALL men are invited!

Floods, hurricanes tornadoes, fires-When these happen the American Red Cross is always there. John Gamble's brother, Harry, was for many years a volunteer counselor for the Red Cross and a veteran of Katrina and other disasters. Come to the Men's Breakfast on May 27 at 7:30 am to hear his stories and experiences.



American Red Cross
Blood Drive

GIVE
Blood

Friday June 1 2-7 pm

The age and medication restrictions have been eased so you (anyone 17 and older) may give. Call for Dorothy Johnston (609-877-0035) to schedule your appointment.



From May 20-22, Pastor G and lay member, Barbay Gaye, as well as

Evelyn Carson and our church secretary (both as members-at-large) will attend Annual Conference at the Wildwood Convention Center.

Annual Conference is a yearly session for clergy and lay members to worship, learn about programs and conduct the business of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey.

A special offering to support the work of the new strategic plan will be received on May 20 for pastor to take to Annual Conference. An envelope will be in the bulletin.

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be **closed** on May 21 & 22.

St. Paul United Methodist Church
201 Levitt Parkway
Willingboro, NJ 08046



If you no longer wish to receive The Epistle, please notify the church office at 609-877-7034 or stpumc@verizon.net.

Spring Musical Concert

Saturday, June 2 at 4:30 pm

Looking for a nice way to enjoy the first Saturday evening in June? St. Paul is pleased to invite you to a spring musical concert featuring Laticia Lewis, violinist and teacher of music.



Ms. Lewis is a composer, producer performer and teacher of music with over 20 years of experience. She has been featured with various ensemble and bands and is noted for having redefined several genres of music with her own unique interpretations and inspirational play. She has performed all over the tri-state area and abroad. She also plays keyboard and bass guitar. She combines classical, contemporary, gospel and soul in an exciting and wonderful way. Along with several of her friends, she is planning an evening of joy through the sounds of the violin to inspire us all.

This event is a fundraising concert. While there is no designated ticket price, members of the congregation are invited to attend and ask family and friends to come along. We will lift up a free will offering during the intermission and encourage people to give generously. *The goal is to raise monies for our expanding church music ministry.* John Gamble has agreed to co-chair this event with Pastor G. We hope that you will invite your family and friends and join us in this wonderful expression of music and fun!

